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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

What a blow to learn that local broadband competition is again under threat from AT&T and US Telecom, which already dominates the market in our area. As consumers, the very reason we chose a competitive provider was dissatisfaction with AT&T and with the lack of competition in the consumer market.

We have enjoyed competitive DSL service for years (and this year we're switching to fiber) with an alternative provider that competes fairly with AT&T while offering far better rates and service. We also rely on phone service from this provider, and both phone and broadband services are important to our work and our livelihood. Why would we want to pay more for fewer and inferior choices of providers?

More important in the larger picture is that fact that our situation is an example of the 1996 Telecommunications Act working the way it is supposed to by allowing for competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment. This is the law of the land, and we urge that the FCC continue to enable alternative providers to have access to unbundled network elements. Does the FCC exist to serve the American people or to serve the private-sector interests of AT&T?

Respectfully yours,

Laura McCreery